

comment deadline prevent us from designing a complete chart, but we would propose that as a first level that areas with a population of 250,000 or less within a 75 mile radius of the transmitter site have authorized power levels of 300 watts ERP. Successive table elements would take into consideration areas of increasing population and antenna height until the more restrictive levels found in the current C-3 chart are reached in areas of high density population.

2. In regards to the General Category Pool and the proposal that all certified frequency coordinators be allowed to assign frequencies from this pool, we also have some reservations. If all coordinators are to be allowed to assign frequencies, a single, common and up-to-date database must be maintained for use by all coordinators. Multiple databases cannot be allowed. Allowing multiple databases to be maintained by various coordinators would cause continuous and harmful interference on the frequencies. The single database must be maintained by the Commission itself or a single designated contractor. The database requirements of this type of system will be quite enormous and the criteria for selecting a possible contractor will have to be carefully reviewed in order to ensure that the database is kept current, accurate and is available full time for access by the various coordinators.

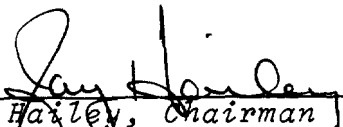
An alternative solution may be to divide the United States into various 'coordination zones' with a single coordinator for each zone. This would reduce the database requirements for each system to a more manageable level. The coordinators would need to have cooperative arrangements for systems that would overlap zone boundaries similar to the arrangements now in place for inter-service sharing and adjacent channel authorizations.

3. The narrower bandwidth required by the proposed rules in order to create additional channels is for the most part a viable solution for the congestion now found on the current radio frequencies. However, we submit that a more gradual and extended phase-in period be implemented to reduce the economical impact on business, local government, and public safety users. The longer phase-in period would also allow for further research and development time by equipment manufacturers in order to adequately address all technical issues and requirements of the new specifications and to develop reliable, economic equipment.

4. Finally, we ask that the period for comments on the proposed rule-making be extended until July 30, 1993 in order to more fully evaluate the impact of the proposed changes and to make further recommendations to the Commission. We feel that field testing on existing systems of the new narrower bandwidth and reduced power levels is very much in order. In many parts of the country, winter weather conditions prevent or severely curtail the feasibility of performing such tests. We ask for the extension of the comment period in order to allow for system testing when weather conditions permit technical personnel easy access to transmitter sites in order to adjust existing systems

to the new specifications and perform coverage tests during periods that will have a less serious effects on radio systems, businesses, and public safety operations. To perform such tests during the winter months would be difficult technically and could have a serious impact on the safety of property and lives.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jay Hailey, Chairman  
Communications Committee  
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Addendum to comments in regards to FCC PR Docket 92-235

1. § 88.231 and § 88.473 have the appearance of prohibiting mobile relay operations in the 150-174 MHz band. Public Safety and other eligible user classifications are currently allowed to operate mobile relay stations in this band. If mobile relays are not to be permitted in 150-174 MHz under part 88, serious degradation of communication services will result. Especially in the Public Safety sector, mobile relays are a vital component of communication systems, being required in order to provide the necessary coverage and inter-unit communications so vital to the mission of Public Safety entities. The commission should take the opportunity afforded by the addition of new channel allocations to provide for channel pairing for assignment to mobile relay operations. The channel pairing could be based on the 5.26 MHz spacing as noted in § 88.231, 5 MHz spacing as is currently found in the 450-470 MHz band or some other feasible channel separation.

2. The assignment of 5 KHz channel spacing in the 150-174 MHz band does not conform to the recently adopted 6.25 KHz federal government channel spacing in the same band. This could easily have the effect of making equipment purchased by state and local government entities incompatible with that of federal government agencies. Interoperability between federal, state, local governments is a vital concern of all agencies. In addition, equipment is likely to be more expensive as manufacturers will be required to design and build equipment to meet both standards and will not be able to take advantage of the economies of scale if all equipment were built to a single standard.